

**Washington State Children's Administration and Foster Parent
Quarterly Regional Consultation Forum (HB 1624)
March 20, 2012
Minutes**

Present:

Linda Rogers, FP	Tim Abbey, AA
Amber Sherman, FP	Connie Morlin, DLR AA
Dru Powers, FFK	Candice Achenbach, FP
Kris Randall, AA	Larry Crumet, DCFS
Susan Brooks, FFK	Melike Bludau, FP
Launi Burdge, AA	Sandy Porter, FP
Kim McNaughton, FFK	John Traylor, DCFS
Michelle Cutlip, RFTI Trainer	Ruby Harper, FP
Donna Stirling, DLR Licensors	Art Harper, FP
Stacey Arquette, DLR Licensors	Laurie Palmquist, DLR FP Liaison
Joey Charlton, Homefinders	Haleigh Young, Homefinders
Penny Oliver, DLR Supervisor	Kerry Bryant, FP
Barb Sheffler, DCFS	David Needham, DCFS
Brent Borg, AA	Michael Rose, DCFS
Cindi Roderick, FP, FFK	

Training Updates:

Handouts were distributed with the current training schedules. Just finishing first round of all 36 hours in Region 1. The next ones start in May and will be offered in the following telehealth sites: Spokane, Omak, Republic, Newport, Clarkston and possibly Colfax. Reminder - new foster parents have two years to complete and existing homes have until October 2015 to complete. You do need to commit to the entire module to get credit for any module. Foster parents receive their own passport to track their progress on completing their 36 hours of Parenting Plus.

Michelle and Renee' just finished the Trust Based Relational Intervention support group. They will start a new one in about eight weeks in May. Circle of Security will start a six week class soon that is also available.

Recruitment Updates:

Linda Rogers and Amber Sherman gave an update on activities during the past three months and plans for the coming year. This included:

- Clothing Perk and Teen Closet are all doing well in the same Valley complex. Approximately 20 children are being served per clothing bank each month.

- May is Foster Parent Month and there will be many activities surrounding a campaign called “A Day in May”. Watch the www.fpas.org site and Facebook for updates on specials for foster families during the month. There will be YMCA swim passes again this year in May – watch for it online as well.
- Teen Closet fundraiser – the TC continues to receive 15% from sales at Papa Murphy’s on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at selected locations.
- The TC 50 will have its 2nd annual 50 mile race on June 3, 2012.
- Good news – Sleep Country donated 250+ pairs of brand new pajamas! They are now starting a shoe drive as well! Thank you Sleep Country!

Retention/Support Updates:

Dru Powers gave an update on the support groups in the region as well as an update on support activities. This included the following:

- There is a new support group in the Cheney/Medical Lake area facilitated by Cindi Roderick. She will be doing a Father’s Barbecue in June!
- Spokane is having a YMCA swim party in May! Free swim passes for families.
- Spokane – FP/Caregiver Appreciation Dinner – Saturday, April 28th
- Riverfront Park Carousel Party – Saturday, May 6th
- Newport – they are having a carnival this Saturday for foster parents and relatives! Way to go Kim!
- Wenatchee still needs a new support group leader. Dru is filling in. They had a Valentine’s dinner in February put on by Families for Kids and DCFS/DLR staff. It was a huge success with more than 100 in attendance!
- Support groups have been taking advantage of applying and using the special activity fee of \$200. Several have used it so far with plans for Newport this month, Spokane in April, the swim party in Spokane for Coffee Time and Night Life in May and the West Plains barbecue in June!

What should a foster parent do when they have an open bed and placement staff has not called them?

- Joey Charlton, new Homefinders supervisor in Spokane, asked that you call him or his workers. Let them know when you have openings, will be on vacation, etc. He will assist or route you to the proper contacts in the various offices as well as assisting with Spokane. Joey’s number is 363-3482. Halei Young’s number is 363.4615. Suzanne Peringer’s number is 363.3598.

What should foster parents know from Homefinders/placement?

- Placement sheets – Homefinders is working on getting these as complete as possible. You should receive one with each placement you have. The placement sheet/information should then follow the child to the next placement.

- Respite placements – Michael Rose is the new homefinder coordinating respite placements. He can be reached at 363-3351.
- Homefinders are putting together a database of respite possibilities as well as open placements to assist them with placements and to help track short term changes such as vacations, illnesses, etc. that prevent placements temporarily.

Immunizations – review of the policy for signing for immunizations or any other medical procedures that was discussed at the February advisory board meeting.

Here is the excerpt from the February minutes: **Immunizations at Doctor's appointments** – who can sign? What is the best practice for caregivers? Is there a form caregivers can have SWs sign before an appointment?

- This issue was brought to AG Cheryl Wolfe who reported they are working on a ruling that this be addressed in court action at Shelter Care hearings.
- The suggestion was made to include this in all court reviews.
- Valerie Marshall reviewed the immunization policies. She also reported that there is currently no statewide consistency on this issue of signing for immunizations.
- It was agreed this would be a good issue to take to the HB 1624 statewide meeting in April.
- In the meantime, it was reiterated that **foster parents should not be signing** for any medical care including immunizations. It should all be referred to the assigned SW for the child.

Further discussion at today's meeting:

- **Foster parents should not sign anything** but it is a bigger issue since it can hold up emergent medical treatment or at least delays treatment.
- Safety issue – if it is an emergency, they should call 363-3333.
- Suggest we take this to the state level for the HB 1624 statewide meeting.
- Candice gave an example of her with her foster baby six weeks old at emergency in the middle of the night. After hours was telling the medical personnel no treatment until they can talk to a judge. Discussion on how the hospital can act in the best interest if it is a life and death situation.
- Bio parents still retain medical rights for their children except when usurped by the courts.

Tips/Ways to Protect You as a Foster Parent/Caregiver – a group is forming to develop a list to assist caregivers with quick answers. We are looking for members.

- Volunteers now include Barb Sheffler, Joey Charlton, Stacey Arquette, Dru Powers, David Needham, Laurie Palmquist, Cindy Gardner, Ginger Schutt, Michelle Cutlip, Amber Sherman, Kim McNaughton, Cindi Roderick
- A meeting will be set in early April with follow up work done by email to include those who cannot attend in person.

The Title IV-E Waiver Advisory Committee was established to make recommendations about Washington State's Title IV-E Waiver application for a federal demonstration project. Dru Powers serves on this group representing Region 1 North and South. They met on March 13th with Representative Ruth Kagi.

- They are putting together a presentation of strategies to use in the state which then result in continued funding.
- Important to collaborate with other existing programs.
- Resources for social workers to use such as housing resources
- All of this must meet the guiding principles to maintain children and adolescents in their own homes when possible, reducing the reliance on out of home care, shortening time to legal permanence and stabilizing families after reunification to reduce re-entry into care.
- They must also follow the Framework for Child Welfare Reform. This is an opportunity to re-think how funding is used, and what can be paid for to support child welfare reform efforts.

Statewide Consultations Meetings

1. Our representatives - Ginger Schutt and Cindy Gardner. Kristen Otoupalik is the alternate.
2. Ginger and Cindy were not able to attend today. They submitted a report to Dru to share today.
 - ✓ Mentioned excellent information in the latest Caregiver Connection about Grief and Loss. <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/ca/CaregiverConnectionMAR2012.pdf> When is counseling offered/available? Suggestion for a list of providers and process to utilize. FPs to use their own medical insurance first.
 - ✓ Liabilities regarding infants discharged on methadone. CA will present to management and will work on a policy for statewide use. Our regional medical consultant Dr. Ashley is recommending we do not receive babies into foster care that are withdrawing from methadone. For now it will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
3. **Issues to submit for the next statewide meeting:**
 - ✓ ***Immunizations and medical care*** – foster parents are not to sign. There needs to be a policy/clarification on what foster parents are allowed to do and how to clarify the process especially in the case of emergencies.
 - ✓ ***General medical care treatment*** – weekdays and nights and weekends; what are we allowed to sign? At shelter care the bio parents are asked to sign for routine medical care and immunizations.
 - ✓ ***What can foster parents sign for?***
 - i. *Some signatures are just presenting yourself and accepting the child*
 - ii. *Some are for medical instructions*
 - iii. *Guidelines – what never to sign, sign with caution and yes you can sign*

Next Regional Meeting – Tuesday, June 19, 2012 in Stevens County; 1 – 3 p.m.

Next Statewide Video-Conference Meeting – Monday, April 23; 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.; Children’s Administration, Office Bldg. 2 (Meeting Room: SL-04, near the cafeteria) 1115 Washington Street SE, Olympia, (in Region 1 that is available at the DSHS office at 8517 E. Trent)